

**2009 Independent Forest Audit  
Annual Provincial Action Plan**

**Big Pic Forest  
Caribou Forest  
Lakehead Forest  
Mazinaw-Lanark Forest  
Timiskaming Forest  
Trout Lake Forest  
Whiskey Jack Forest**

**April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2009**

**Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources**

**2009 IFA Annual Provincial Action Plan  
Submission Page**

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**2009 IFA Annual Provincial Action Plan  
Endorsement Page**

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**2009 IFA Annual Provincial Action Plan  
Approval Page**

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## INTRODUCTION

Independent forest audits were conducted on seven Forest Management Units in Ontario in 2009 covering the period from April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2009. These included the Big Pic, Caribou, Lakehead, Mazinaw-Lanark, Timiskaming, Trout Lake and Whiskey Jack Forests. The audits were undertaken according to the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP) which meets the requirements of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* (CFSA) and the conditions of *MNR's Class Environmental Assessment for Forest Management in Ontario* (2003) as amended. It also meets the requirements of *Ontario Regulation 160/04* made under the CFSA (governing Independent Forest Audits).

This action plan addresses the MNR corporate/regional recommendations in a separate document as outlined in Appendix E – Action Plans and Status Reports of the 2008-2009 IFAPP. The action plan includes the responses to fifteen recommendations and seven licence extension recommendations organized according to principles listed in the IFAPP including the action(s) required, the organization and position responsible, the deadline date, and a method of tracking progress. The status of progress towards completing the action plan will be referenced in the Provincial Annual Reports on Forest Management.

Annual Provincial Action Plans must be submitted for MNR endorsement and approval within two months of receipt of the last final audit report for the year, unless otherwise directed by the Minister. For 2009 audits, the last final audit report for the year was received by Forests Branch on June 14, 2010. Therefore, this Annual Provincial Action Plan is due for submission on August 14, 2010.

The approved Annual Provincial Action Plan is available to the public through MNR's public website once the audit reports have been tabled in the Legislature.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Principle 1: Commitment**

#### **LAKEHEAD FOREST RECOMMENDATION #1:**

MNR Northwestern Region shall become actively engaged in facilitating improvements in the rapport between the Thunder Bay and Nipigon MNR District staffs and in developing an approach to providing consistent management direction on the Forest, beginning with the treatment of late winter moose habitat. In addition, the terms of reference for the development of the 2012-2017 operating plan, or the next major plan product, shall provide for a Regional role as an adjudicator of major disagreements.

#### **Actions Required:**

The recommendation will be addressed by the MNR NWR working with the MNR Districts as outlined below.

1. The MNR NWR will provide advice to the Thunder Bay District Manager to update the *Cross-District Roles and Responsibilities for the Management of the Lakehead Forest, January 31, 2007*, between Thunder Bay and Nipigon Districts.
2. The Terms of Reference approved by the Northwest Regional Director and Thunder Bay District Manager for the second 5-year term of the 2007-2017 Lakehead Forest FMP will incorporate the following:
  - Planning team meetings will be conducted to reduce disagreements, ensure professional rapport, and improve consistency throughout the planning process
  - The 'Decision Process' and the 'Planning Team Dispute Resolution Process' will include the following steps that are to be taken to resolve disagreements, including conflicts, between Planning Team members and to have significant differences in consistency reviewed:
    - 1) Involve Planning Team members, Planning Team Chair, and Project Manager
      - Regional advisors will be consulted for professional advice
      - Any significant disagreements or conflicts among the planning team, or significant differences in consistency in application of any direction or process applicable to FMP production (e.g. treatment of late winter moose habitat), will be referred to the Steering Committee for review (step 2)
    - 2) Steering Committee
      - Significant differences in consistency in the application of any direction or process applicable to FMP production will be reviewed and a response provided to the parties in step 1; where there will be differences in approaches in use of direction in the FMP the rationale for those differences will be documented as an 'Additional Plan Product' in the FMP
      - Steering Committee members will also review any unresolved planning team issues identified while keeping themselves informed of plan production
      - The regional representative may seek advice from the Regional Director
      - If the Steering Committee is unable to resolve any disagreements or conflicts they will be referred to the District Managers (step 3)

- 3) Thunder Bay District Manager and if applicable the Nipigon District Manager
  - If the District Managers are unable to resolve disagreements or conflicts they will be referred to the Regional Director (step 4)
- 4) Regional Director
  - Will make a decision with the goal of resolving the disagreement or conflict in consultation with applicable parties as required

**Deadline Date:**

1. According to the District update schedule, forecast for October 2010
2. Terms of Reference approximately December 2010, final Planned Operations approximately September 2011

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNR NWR Planning Manager
2. MNR Thunder Bay District Manager, MNR NWR Regional Director

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Records of meetings, advice, updated Cross-District Responsibilities document
2. Approved Terms of Reference, planning team meeting minutes; steering committee, District Manager, Regional Director documentation of any disagreements, conflicts; draft and final planned operations

## **Principle 2: Public Consultation and Aboriginal Involvement**

### **BIG PIC FOREST RECOMMENDATION # 1:**

Corporate OMNR and the Regional Director should jointly ensure that funding is available in the Wawa District for the Manitouwadge LCC to function throughout the duration of a FMP.

#### **Actions required:**

1. Discuss the approach used currently regarding the regional funding allocation for Local Citizens Committees (LCCs) with the Northeast Regional Forest Forum members for their input and refine as appropriate based on this discussion for future funding allotments.
2. MNR, Northeast Region will continue to work with Wawa District to identify and provide funding allocations for the LCCs within Wawa District. Sufficient funding will be considered to enable the District LCCs to continue operations during all phases of FMP development and implementation. The amount will depend on the number of LCCs in the Northeast Region and recognition of other financial pressures. Wawa District will determine the appropriate allocation of resources to LCCs within the District.

#### **Organization and position responsible:**

1. Forest Program Specialist, Northeast Region, MNR (NER Forest Forum lead).
2. Forest Resources Supervisor, Northeast Region, MNR (lead); Planning Manager, Northeast Region, MNR.

#### **Deadline date:**

1. Completed - Held discussion with the Forest Forum on February 11, 2010.
2. Annually as part of MNR's budget planning process.

#### **Method of tracking progress:**

1. Northeast Region Forest Forum Minutes.
2. The results of the budget allocation process and accomplishments achieved will be tracked through the Regional Business Unit on an annual basis.

**BIG PIC FOREST RECOMMENDATION # 2:**

With reference to the direction and intent of OMNR's Forest Management Class EA approval and FMPM direction, Corporate OMNR should carefully review the costs and benefits associated with the amalgamation of LCCs in response to the amalgamation of forest management units.

**Actions required:**

1. Forests Branch reviewed the implementation experience for Local Citizen's Committees identified in Condition 5 of *MNR's Environmental Assessment Act approval for forest management on Crown lands in Ontario (Declaration Order MNR-71)* and reported on it in the *Five-Year Environmental Assessment Report on Forest Management April 1, 2003 – March 31, 2008*. Nothing from the review indicated a need to change Condition 5 of the Declaration Order. Decisions related to the number of Local Citizen's Committees needed within a District are made at the local level based on the specific local circumstances involved, including cost and benefit considerations.

**Organization & position responsible:**

1. Manager, Forest Management Planning Section, Forests Branch, MNR (lead).

**Deadline date:**

1. Completed. The report was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment on June 23, 2009 and posted to the Environmental Registry on June 26, 2009.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. *Five-Year Environmental Assessment Report on Forest Management April 1, 2003 – March 31, 2008*.

### **Principle 3: Forest Management Planning**

#### **TIMISKAMING FOREST RECOMMENDATION #8:**

Corporate MNR shall assess the FI Portal's ability to accurately and simply track milestone dates associated with the submission, review and approval of forest management planning documents, and shall revise the system as necessary to ensure that this capacity exists.

#### **Actions required:**

1. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of auditing criteria 3.9 (amendments), 3.10 (Annual Work Schedules) and 6.5 (Annual Reports) in the audit protocol, information will be provided to auditors conducting 2010 and 2011 audits on where status information of planning documents (particularly annual reports and annual work schedule reviews) is currently available. This information will include updates to auditors on the purpose and functionality of the Forest Information Portal.
2. To ensure that Districts and SFL holders maintain sufficient records for auditing of criteria 3.9, 3.10 and 6.5, information will be provided to Districts and SFL holders on record-keeping requirements for planning documents (particularly annual reports and annual work schedule reviews).
3. Evaluate mechanisms for the provision of milestone dates for submission, review and approval of forest management planning documents to auditors. This evaluation will include examination of the auditing requirements in the *Independent Forest Audit Process & Protocol* and the associated business need for tracking of milestone data for the submission, review and approval of forest management planning information. Where the evaluation concludes that modifications to the current tracking mechanisms are needed, revised mechanisms will be proposed.

#### **Organization & position responsible:**

1. Coordinator, Forest Information and Reporting, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section, Forests Branch, MNR.
2. Supervisor, Evaluation and Reporting Unit, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section, Forests Branch, MNR.
3. Supervisor, Evaluation and Reporting Unit, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section, Forests Branch, MNR.

#### **Deadline date:**

1. Completed. Information was provided on May 12, 2010, as part of the Auditor Orientation Session for auditors conducting 2010 and 2011 audits.
2. Completed. Information was provided as part of the FMP Update training session for all planning teams, on June 8-9, 2010 in Thunder Bay, June 15-16, 2010 in Timmins, and June 22-23, 2010 in Peterborough.

3. March 2011.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Agenda and presentation material for auditor orientation session.
2. Agenda and presentation material for annual FMP update session.
3. Provincial Annual Reports on Forest Management.

**WHISKEY JACK FOREST RECOMMENDATION #4:**

MNR Region must develop the capacity to conduct risk based cost benefit analyses of proposed pest management programs in advance of future outbreaks.

**Action required:**

1. The MNR NWR will build capacity in areas of forest estate modeling, which is utilized to conduct risk based cost benefit analyses, to be better prepared to address issues related to insect outbreaks and impacts on forest yield by creating and maintaining a regional database of FRI and forest modeling inputs that facilitates a more rapid preparation of required models. This will facilitate any insect pest management plans that the interdisciplinary team prepares in consultation with a Forests Branch specialist including the consideration, evaluation, and documentation of a number of management options; an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages for forest management purposes and the potential effects on non-timber values, the anticipated effectiveness, and an estimate of the operational costs; and, a comparison of the evaluation of the options to assist in the identification of a specific course of action.

**Organization & position responsible:**

1. MNR NWR, Regional Forest Resources Supervisor.

**Deadline date:**

1. Occurring now and continually ongoing as new information becomes available, as models are developed and as any major insect infestations occur.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Regional database, insect pest management plans.

**MAZINAW-LANARK FOREST RECOMMENDATION #3:**

Corporate OMNR must ensure that funding for biological values surveys arrives for use in forest management planning in a timely manner.

**Actions required:**

1. MNR funding for the collection of values information rests with Regional Operations Division. Funding from Regional Operations Division is allocated through the MNR regions and to the MNR districts subject to the annual budgeting and priority setting process. Values funding is available to all forest management planning teams annually. However, funding is targeted primarily to those plans that are currently under development to allow for appropriate Area of Concern planning related to the identified values. The allocated funding levels may not be sufficient to cover a complete survey of the entire management unit. As a result, the MNR district, in consultation with the planning team, needs to determine an appropriate prioritized approach for values collection and verification based on the allocated funds. In addition, the Forest Management Planning Manual and the Forest Information Manual outline the requirements for addressing previously unidentified values. In consideration of the above, MNR Southern Region will monitor the Forest Management Plan schedule for management units in the southern region and allocate available resources to planning teams in order to meet planning requirements.

**Organization & position responsible:**

1. Regional Senior Forest Management Planner, MNR Southern Region (lead).

**Deadline date:**

1. Ongoing.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Tracking of annual funds allocated for values collection.

## **Principle 4: Plan Implementation**

### **MAZINAW-LANARK FOREST RECOMMENDATION #7:**

Corporate and district OMNR should work with MLFI on: the implementation of the ESA, seeking practical operational approaches to the protection and recovery of the endangered species; clarifying to the company how and when the ESA flexibility tool can be used; and, how the company can make their operations comply with the ESA through the FMP, as an instrument of the ESA.

#### **Actions required:**

1. MNR is developing policy direction to guide the interpretation of "damage and destruction" of habitat and "kill, harm or harass" of species under section 10 and 9 of the ESA respectively. Policy direction on the interpretation of these key terms, ("damage or destroy" and "harm or harass") will form an overarching policy position to guide and inform consistent decision making related to various activities occurring across the Province. Interpretation of Damage or Destroy and Harm or Harass, will form the policy platform to assess the vast number and diversity of species at risk, their unique habitat needs, the different ecological contexts that exist across Ontario and the variety of activities occurring within the province in a consistent and transparent manner. MNR District and Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. will implement the policy direction once developed.

#### **Organization & position responsible:**

1. Manager - Protection, Species at Risk Branch, MNR.

#### **Deadline date:**

1. Damage or Destroy Policy and Harm or Harass Policy targeted for finalization in 2011.

#### **Method of tracking progress:**

1. Policy documents as posted on the Environmental Registry.

**MAZINAW-LANARK FOREST RECOMMENDATION #9:**

Corporate OMNR shall review the prerequisites for implementing clearcutting in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region with the goal of reducing documentation and analysis requirements, particularly in situations where clearcut sizes are less than an established threshold. Consideration should be given to eliminating onerous documentation requirements for clearcuts that are smaller than the minimum threshold.

**Actions required:**

1. During the development of *The Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales*, the documentation and analysis requirements for clearcuts were reviewed by the guide development team. As a result of this review, *The Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales* has changed the way stand level residual is calculated. The planning and analysis for residual forest has been greatly reduced and simplified. For example, there is no longer an analysis to determine the spatial separation of clearcuts on a sliding scale or the need to preplan where residual patches will be left.

**Organization & position responsible:**

1. Supervisor, Guides Unit, Forest Policy Section, Forests Branch, MNR.

**Deadline date:**

1. Completed. *The Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales* was approved for implementation in March 2010 and applies starting with plans scheduled for implementation in 2011, including the Mazinaw-Lanark 2011 Forest Management Plan.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Approved *Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales*.

## **Principle 5: Systems Support**

### **TIMISKAMING FOREST RECOMMENDATION #6:**

By December 2010 Corporate MNR in collaboration with Timmins District MNR, shall reconcile the staffing capacity at the Gogama area office with the responsibilities of the staffing contingent.

#### **Actions required:**

1. There was some turnover in the key management positions within Timmins District (Timmins District Manager and Watershed Area Supervisor) during the five-year audit term. These positions are important to being able to reconcile the staffing capacity needs within the Gogama Area Office. The Regional Director will fill the Timmins District Manager position and the Regional HR committee will consider a request to fill the Watershed Area Supervisor position within Timmins District.
2. The Timmins and Kirkland Lake District Managers will explore staffing options to ensure the MNR's legislated responsibilities are addressed for the amalgamated Timiskaming Forest.

#### **Organization & position responsible:**

1. Regional Director, Northeast Region, MNR; Northeast Regional HR Committee, MNR.
2. Timmins District Manager, MNR and Kirkland Lake District Manager, MNR.

#### **Deadline date:**

1. Completed – The Timmins District Manager position was filled permanently effective October 5, 2009. Support was provided to fill the Watershed Area Supervisor position - interviews were held the end of March 2010; the position was permanently filled with a start date of May 10, 2010.
2. December 2010.

#### **Method of tracking progress:**

1. Staffing announcement Memo(s).
2. Records of discussions.

## **Principle 6: Monitoring**

### **BIG PIC FOREST RECOMMENDATION # 11:**

The OMNR Regional Director should ensure that sufficient staff resources are available within the Wawa District to meet forest compliance inspection obligations on the Big Pic Forest.

#### **Actions required:**

1. Annual allotment of compliance funding is allocated to each District through Regional Operations Division. Northeast Region will assess the District work plan within the Regional context and allocate resources as available and prioritized. The prioritization of forest compliance will be determined at the local level using a risk assessment approach as identified annually in the District's Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP), which is based on the Company submitted Annual Compliance Schedule of Action. Priorities will be adjusted based on the allocation of resources.
2. Discuss the approach used currently regarding the regional funding allocation for forest compliance with the Northeast Regional Forest Forum members for their input and refine as appropriate based on this discussion for future funding allotments.
3. The Regional Human Resources (HR) Committee will consider the staffing requests from Wawa District as submitted by the Wawa District Manager.

#### **Organization & position responsible:**

1. Regional Forest Resources Supervisor, Northeast Region (lead), MNR; Planning Manager, Northeast Region, MNR.
2. Forest Program Specialist, Northeast Region, MNR (NER Forest Forum lead).
3. Northeast Regional HR Committee, MNR.

#### **Deadline date:**

1. Annually as part of MNR's budget planning process.
2. Completed - Held discussion with the Forest Forum on February 11, 2010.
3. Periodically upon receipt of requests from the Wawa District Manager.

#### **Method of tracking progress:**

1. The results of the budget allocation process and accomplishments achieved will be tracked through the Regional Business Unit on an annual basis.
2. Northeast Region Forest Forum Minutes.
3. Human resources employee files.

**TROUT LAKE FOREST RECOMMENDATION # 15:**

Corporate MNR must look at offering varied compliance inspection training options to allow for timely training of all parties required to have certified inspectors.

**Actions required:**

1. The process and means for training and certifying compliance inspectors was revised through the forest compliance program streamlining review. Through the review, it was determined that a residential certification session was required for new compliance inspectors to ensure certified compliance inspectors are competent in all areas of the program. In addition, it has been made easier for trained compliance inspectors to maintain their certification by extending the recertification requirement to five years and offering recertification training through online modules and an online exam.
2. A compliance certification training session for new inspectors will be offered in the fall of 2010 on a cost recovery basis. The Forest Compliance Certification Committee will examine the need for certification training sessions yearly taking into consideration the identified need for certified inspectors that cannot be satisfied by the large number of existing certified inspectors in the industrial, government and independent sectors (currently more than 600 across the province).

**Organization & position responsible:**

1. Supervisor, Forestry Skills Assurance and Education Unit, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section, Forests Branch, MNR.
2. Supervisor, Forestry Skills Assurance and Education Unit, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section, Forests Branch, MNR.

**Deadline date:**

1. Completed. The Forest Compliance Certification Committee agreed upon revised process in Nov. 2008 and was written in Jan. 2009.
2. Compliance certification training session scheduled for September 21-23, 2010. On-going as required for future sessions.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Forest compliance program streamlining review results. Revised compliance certification and recertification requirements in the Forest Compliance Handbook.
2. Provincial Annual Report on Forest Management.

## **Principle 7: Achievement of Management Objectives and Forest Sustainability**

### **TROUT LAKE FOREST RECOMMENDATION #20:**

Corporate MNR must consider mechanisms to report spatially on planned vs actual caribou block harvest achievement.

#### **Actions required:**

1. Subsequent to the declaration of woodland caribou as a Species at Risk following the release of the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2004, Forests Branch reviewed the requirements for reporting on harvest block achievement through the development of the 2009 Forest Management Planning Manual and the 2009 Forest Information Manual. The information products required to be submitted as part of the management unit annual reports enable the spatial consideration of harvest block achievement. The 2009 Forest Management Planning Manual requires an assessment of objective achievement in the Year Ten Management Unit Annual Report, and includes consideration of how the landscape pattern target(s) are being achieved, including spatial landscape patterns developed to address caribou habitat objectives.

#### **Organization & position responsible:**

1. Manager, Forest Management Planning Section, Forests Branch, MNR (lead for the Forest Management Planning Manual); Coordinator, Forest Information and Reporting, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section, Forests Branch, MNR (lead for the Forest Information Manual).

#### **Deadline date:**

1. Completed. The effective date of the 2009 Forest Management Planning Manual and the 2009 Forest Information Manual was December 9, 2009.

#### **Method of tracking progress:**

1. *Forest Management Planning Manual for Ontario's Crown Forests 2009* and *Forest Information Manual 2009* and the associated technical specifications.

**LAKEHEAD FOREST RECOMMENDATION #19:**

Corporate MNR and MNDMF shall consider the inclusion of mechanisms within a revised tenure system to encourage the development of more productive forests, including the restoration of forest stands/areas that have become degraded through historic management practices and natural disturbances.

**Actions required:**

1. MNDMF is in the process of conducting a review of Ontario's forest tenure and pricing systems. MNR will meet with MNDMF to discuss the approach within the new tenure system for the development of more productive forests.

**Organization and position responsible:**

1. Manager, Forest Health and Silviculture Section, Forests Branch, MNR (lead);  
Project Director, Tenure and Pricing Review Project, Forestry Division, MNDMF.

**Deadline date:**

1. September 30, 2010.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Provincial Annual Reports on Forest Management.

## **Principle 8: Contractual Obligations**

### **BIG PIC FOREST RECOMMENDATION # 15:**

The OMNR Regional Director must ensure that District and Regional staff place an increased priority on the timing and quality of initial submissions, internal reviews and final approval of IFA Action Plans and Status Reports.

#### **Actions required:**

1. The Northeast Region will notify Wawa District and Green Forest Management Inc. outlining action plan requirements and timelines for submission of the Action Plan based on receipt of the Final Audit Report.
2. The Northeast Region will work closely with Wawa District and Green Forest Management Inc. to develop the draft action plan and eventual draft status report to meet content requirements and ensure they are prepared according to the timelines outlined in the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The MNR Region / Forests Branch will review the draft Action Plan and eventual draft Status Report as provided by the Company and District.
3. Upon submission of the Action Plan by the Wawa District Manager the Regional Forest Program Specialist will gain Regional Director endorsement and forward to Forests Branch. Upon submission of the Status Report by the Wawa District Manager, the Regional Forest Program Specialist will gain Regional Director signature and forward to Forests Branch.
4. Upon receipt of the Regional Director endorsed Action Plan, Forests Branch representatives will forward for final endorsements and approvals of the Action Plan.

#### **Organization & position responsible:**

1. Forest Program Specialist, Northeast Region, MNR.
2. Forest Program Specialist, Northeast Region, MNR (lead); Supervisor, Evaluation and Reporting Unit, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section, Forests Branch, MNR.
3. Forest Program Specialist, Northeast Region, MNR.
4. Supervisor, Evaluation and Reporting Unit, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section, Forests Branch, MNR.

#### **Deadline date:**

1. Completed. The Northeast Regional Forest Program Specialist notified the Manitouwadge Area Forester by phone upon receipt of the Final Audit Report (Jan. 7, 2010) to determine receipt dates of the Report; an email was later sent to the Wawa District and Green Forest Management Inc. (Jan. 22, 2010).

2. Completed for Action Plan. An initial draft of the Action Plan was developed and supplied to MNR Northeast Region (Feb. 3, 2010) containing only the MNR related responses. This initial draft was reviewed by MNR Northeast Region (Feb. 9, 2010). A subsequent draft Action Plan was provided containing the MNR and Company responses (Mar. 11, 2010), and later reviewed by both MNR Northeast Region (Mar. 19, 2010) and Forests Branch (Mar. 23, 2010). Status Report submission within 2 years following approval of the Action Plan.
3. Due to the SFL bankruptcy situation pertaining to the Big Pic Forest and uncertainty regarding the future management options for the Forest, finalizing the Action Plan has been delayed. The Northeast Region is working with Wawa District to complete this IFA requirement; anticipated submission of this Action Plan is by the end of August 2010. Regional Director endorsement of this Action Plan is anticipated within 2 weeks following receipt from Wawa District. Regional Director endorsement of the Status Report is anticipated within 2 weeks following receipt of the Status Report from Wawa District.
4. Within 1 week following receipt of the Regional Director endorsed Action Plan.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Email correspondence.
2. Email correspondence.
3. Signature pages of the Action Plan and Status Report.
4. Signature pages of the Action Plan.

**LAKEHEAD FOREST RECOMMENDATION #20:**

Corporate MNR shall revise the agreements it has with mills to pay Crown dues and renewal charges on timber that is processed to give the Crown the authority to notify the SFL-holder on a quarterly basis of amounts owing, and any other pertinent information, when a mill falls behind on its payments.

**Actions required:**

1. MNR will work with MNDMF to review the impact of SFL holders not having direct access to the payment information and determine an appropriate approach to ensure that SFL holders have the information they need to meet their licence requirements and manage their accounts. Considerations will include consistency with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), information already provided to SFL holders, and opportunities for the SFL to acquire information from mills and over-lapping licensees themselves.

**Organization & position responsible:**

1. Supervisor, Evaluation and Reporting Unit, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section, Forests Branch, MNR. (lead); Stand Establishment Specialist, Forest Health and Silviculture Section, Forests Branch, MNR; Sustainable Forest Licence Specialist, Wood Allocation and Measurement Section, Industry Relations Branch, Forestry Division, MNDMF; Supervisor, Provincial Measurement Unit, Wood Allocation and Measurement Section, Industry Relations Branch, Forestry Division, MNDMF.

**Deadline date:**

1. Completed. A review was completed by May 21, 2010.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Documentation of the review and development of an approach.

**BIG PIC FOREST RECOMMENDATION ON LICENCE EXTENSION:**

The audit team concludes that management of the Big Pic Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Marathon Pulp Inc. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. Had the SFL holder been in a financial position to meet its forest management obligations on the unit, the audit team would have recommended the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence # 542004 for a further five years.

**CARIBOU FOREST RECOMMENDATION ON LICENCE EXTENSION:**

The audit team concludes that management of the Caribou Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Licence held by AbitibiBowater (formally known as Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc.). Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence # 54248 for a further five years.

**LAKEHEAD FOREST RECOMMENDATION ON LICENCE EXTENSION:**

The audit team concludes that management of the Lakehead Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Greenmantle Forest Inc. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence #542460 for a further five years.

**MAZINAW-LANARK FOREST RECOMMENDATION ON LICENCE EXTENSION:**

The audit team concludes that management of the MLF was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations, and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the MLF was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the SFL held by MLFI. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends that the Minister extend the term of SFL #542621 for a further five years.

**TIMISKAMING FOREST RECOMMENDATION ON LICENCE EXTENSION:**

The audit team concludes that management of the Timiskaming Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by TFAI Forest Inc. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence #542247 for a further five years.

**TROUT LAKE FOREST RECOMMENDATION ON LICENCE EXTENSION:**

The team concludes that management of the Trout Lake Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Domtar Pulp and Paper Products Inc. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence #542461 for a further five years.

**WHISKEY JACK FOREST RECOMMENDATION ON LICENCE EXTENSION:**

The audit team concluded that, with the following critical exception noted below, management of the Whiskey Jack Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and MNR met its legal obligations. Forest sustainability, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol, will not be achieved unless corrective measures are immediately taken to address the issues that silviculture practices, including a lack of tending of artificially regenerated areas, are leading to reduced stocking of conifer and an increased component of hardwood on the Forest. This trend does not support the management intention of maintaining a conifer dominated forest, as set out in the 2004-2024 Whiskey Jack Forest FMP.

- Recommendation 3 of this audit must be satisfied to bring the Whiskey Jack Forest into general compliance.

ACCC has surrendered the SFL for the Whiskey Jack Forest to the Crown; therefore the audit team makes no recommendation on licence extension.

**Actions required:**

1. MNR Forests Branch will provide the audit recommendations to the MNDMF Industry Relations Branch for consideration in the licence reviews under Section 26(3) of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act.

**Organization & position responsible:**

1. Director, Forests Branch, MNR.

**Deadline date:**

1. Two months following receipt of the last final audit report for 2009.

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Documentation of provision of audit recommendation provided to Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry.